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NEWS RELEASE

State Senate Oblivious to Impending U.S. Supreme Court Ruling and Will Vote on Onerous Campaign Finance "Reform" Measure That Could be Found Unconstitutional

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The State Senate is poised to vote tomorrow on a bill that would force citizen organizations (ones that are not political action committees) to reveal the personal information of their donors to the State if a citizen organization issued a communication mentioning the name of a candidate within 60 days of an election. Violators would be subject to prison sentences and/or hefty fines.

"Senate Bill 43 is an affront to the First Amendment rights of citizens and citizen organizations who should be able to freely engage in political discourse at election time or at any time, for that matter," said Susan Armacost, Legislative/PAC Director for Wisconsin Right to Life. "To force citizen organizations to provide their donors' personal information to the State in exchange for what should be an unfettered constitutional right is unacceptable."

"The State Senate leadership also seems oblivious to an impending U.S. Supreme Court decision - *Citizens United v. FEC* - that is expected to be handed down **any day**," continued Armacost. "While no one can predict what the Court will do, it is very possible that that the Court will affirm the First Amendment right of citizen organizations to freely disseminate the voting records and positions of candidates at election time without being subject to onerous reporting requirements."

"It's bad enough that the State Senate leadership supports a bill that is a slap in the face to the First Amendment but to hold a vote on the bill prior to the Court's ruling is both foolhardy and a waste of state resources." said Armacost.

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